The LIBRARY of CONGRESS
Information Bulletin
Vol. 63, No. 11 November 2004

Poetry at the Library of Congress

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JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

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Poetry at the Library of Congress

Consultants, Laureates and Programs Over the Years

From Frost to Fragonard: Renovating the Poetry Room

By BIBI MARTÍ

The Poetry Room in the Thomas Jefferson Building is a small space in the northwest corner of the third floor of the building that commands one of the best views of the city, overlooking the east front of the Capitol and beyond to the towers of Virginia. One of the last spaces in the building to be renovated, it is the home of the Library's Poetry and Literature Center, which includes an administrative office and a small working office for the resident Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry, in addition to the elegant Poetry Room. This third (or "attic") floor of the Jefferson Building, which houses the Congressional Page School in addition to the Poetry and Literature Center, is now closed to the public.

The Poetry Room was formally dedicated on April 23, 1951, William Shakespeare's birthday. The guest of honor was Library benefactor Gertrude Clarke Whittall, who gave the funds for the development of a poetry center in December 1950. The Gertrude Clarke Whittall Poetry Fund was to be used to "promote the appreciation and understanding of poetry," primarily through a series of lectures on poetry and poetry readings. These funds also supported the original decoration and furnishing of the Poetry Room.

The Poetry Room recently underwent a complete renovation, including furnishings, lighting fixtures and window treatments. The furniture in the Poetry Room was donated by Whittall and includes pieces from the English Edwardian and American Colonial Revival periods, the majority in the Neoclassical style. All of the furnishings were refurbished or treated, and structural repairs were made when needed. Reversible adhesives and coatings were used whenever possible to maintain the furnishings' integrity. In the case of a four-panel Edwardian screen, the original fabric was preserved by keeping it on the frame and covering the old fabric with new.

A candelabrum, original to the room, was also restored. Working from photos of details of the furniture, a rug manufacturer designed a new carpet, and new drapes were styled by Library designer LynneHammette, working with the upholsterer. Four framed prints by the French Rococo-era painter Jean-Honoré Fragonard were cleaned and restored.

Prior to the renovation, the poetry room was cluttered with an odd assortment of chairs and tables, with wall-to-wall carpeting and water stains on the floors from the radiators. The renovation began in May 2002 and was completed in the summer of 2003.

Lynne Hammette

The newly-refurbished Poetry Room in the Library's Thomas Jefferson Building.

Consultants in Poetry and Poets Laureate Consultants in Poetry at the Library of Congress, 1937-present

Joseph Auslander, 1937-1941

Allen Tate, 1943-1944

Robert Penn Warren, 1944-1945, 1986-1987

Louise Bogan, 1945-1946

Karl Shapiro, 1946-1947

Robert Lowell, 1947-1948

Leonie Adams, 1948-1949

Elizabeth Bishop, 1949-1950

Conrad Aiken, 1950-1952

William Carlos Williams, 1952

The Consultant in Poetry

"The Consultant in Poetry is a very busy man, chiefly because he spends so much time talking with people who want to know what the Consultant in Poetry does." So begins Howard Nemerov's 1963 essay "What Does The Consultant in Poetry Do?" in William McGuire's 1988 book, "Poetry's Catbird Seat: The Consultantship in Poetry in the English Language at the Library of Congress," the definitive reference book for the history of the consultantship.

Renamed Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry through legislation passed in 1985, the poet laureate today is a very busy man or woman, but the time spent explaining the position has probably remained the same.

Ted Kooser, the current poet laureate whose appointment was announced in August, has been fielding calls and questions about this and other matters since then. His usual quiet lifestyle has been disrupted by requests from reporters for interviews and photographs. Through it all, he has remained mellow and patient, in part because he's an easygoing Nebraskan, but also, he says, due to the "shell shock" of being appointed to the prestigious position of Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress, the keystone of the Library's Poetry and Literature Center.

Background

On Feb. 19, 1872, the congressional Joint Committee on the Library of Congress considered a petition by T.N. Hornsby, a private citizen, asking Congress to establish a "bureau of poets and poesy." No action was taken, and the position of poet laureate at the Library as it is known today would not exist had the committee agreed to establish such a bureau.

The Consultantship in Poetry in the English Language, also known as the Chair of Poetry, was conceived by Herbert Putnam, the Librarian of Congress from 1899 to 1939, and created by a gift fund in 1936. Putnam appointed Joseph Auslander, lecturer on poetry at Columbia University and poetry editor of the North American Review, as the first consultant on July 7, 1937. His annual stipend was $3,000.

The consultantship was funded in large part by Archer Milton Huntington, the son of Collis P. Huntington, the railroad builder and principal organizer of the Central Pacific Railroad. Huntington's friendship with Librarian Putnam led to Huntington's donation of funds to maintain a "Chair of Poetry in the English Language," which consisted of a 1936 deed of trust of 5,000 shares of Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Co. stock. Half of the income was earmarked for the maintenance of a Hispanic Society Room, which is now the Hispanic Reading Room.

Another fund, the Henry Kirke Porter Memorial Fund, derived from half the proceeds of the sale of a valuable piece of real estate in downtown Washington, was given to the Library in 1938 by Annie-May Hegeman and named for her stepfather, who was a founder of the YMCA and a former member of Congress. The Porter Fund provided additional funds to support the Chair of Poetry.

Auslander, handpicked by Huntington to be the consultant with no definite term of office, was a man who came from humble means and studied at Harvard, eventually teaching at Columbia College. He published often in small magazines, but his work was not looked upon kindly by some of his peers, such as Archibald MacLeish, an established poet himself, who became Librarian of Congress just two years later.

MacLeish assumed the duties of Librarian of Congress on Oct. 2, 1939. And in 1941, after serving the Library as Chair of Poetry for four years, Auslander left the position and assumed the duties of gifts officer, a position created especially for him, in order to continue his work to secure private donations for the Library's literature collections. Auslander's tenure under MacLeish was marked by some turbulent times, including disagreements about establishing a poetry room. Coupled with MacLeish's lack of admiration for Auslander's work, this may have led MacLeish to force Auslander out of the position.

As John Broderick, former assistant librarian for research services at the Library of Congress has written: "Auslander was definitely not his [MacLeish's] idea of who should occupy the highly visible, though not yet prestigious, position of Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress. MacLeish terminated Auslander's appointment, intending to use the position to bring distinguished American poets to the Library for one-year terms."

In a letter to the poet Stephen Vincent Benet, excerpted in "Poetry's Catbird Seat," MacLeish described the post of Consultant in Poetry as "a practicing poet able and willing to answer the inquiries about American and English poetry which occasional readers may bring in, and to have general supervision of the collection in a non-technical way, and, secondly, to offer to practicing poets a place where for a period of a year or two a man may have time and access to the Library for the purposes of his work."

Two years passed before MacLeish was able to fill the poetry chair, and Allen Tate was inducted as the second consultant in 1943.

Randall Jarrell, 1956-1958

Robert Frost, 1958-1959

Richard Eberhart, 1959-1961

Louis Untermeyer, 1961-1963

"I Crown Thee...Poet Laureate!"

The process of appointing the consultant has always been without much pomp or bureaucratic circumstance; since the early 1950s he or she is appointed by the Librarian of Congress, who may consider recommendations from a variety of sources, such as present and former consultants. The formal duties and requirements of the consultant are also modest; regular office hours or full-time residency in Washington are not compulsory. Only two readings, one at the beginning and one at the end of the year's consultantship, are required.

Currently, the consultant receives a privately funded, taxable stipend of $35,000.

The title of the consultant's position was officially changed by Public Law 99-194 to Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry in 1985 after an effort of many years by former Sen. Spark M. Matsunaga (D-Hawaii) to create a position of Poet Laureate of the United States, who would be appointed by the President upon recommendations of the then National Council on the Arts.

The Library opposed the legislation for three principal reasons, which Broderick enumerated in his 1986 article in the Yearbook of the Dictionary of Literary Biography: "1) the inappropriateness of such a position in a democratic society; 2) the politicization of such a position if filled by Presidential appointment; and 3) the confusion with and detraction from the Library's Consultant in Poetry."

The 1985 law as passed represented a compromise, with a change in title and some funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, but with the position still appointed by the Librarian of Congress. It resulted in the rather awkward title of Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress, but it seemed to greatly enhance the public perception of the position. As Broderick notes: "The national media greeted the appointment of Robert Penn Warren [the first holder of the position with the new title] with coverage unmatched since the days of Robert Frost. If Senator Matsunaga wanted to increase the visibility of the national poetry position he succeeded immeasurably."

The law established the "Authority for Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry," in effect recognizing the consultant position and its literary contributions. The law also recognized the position as "equivalent to that of Poet Laureate of the United States" and encouraged federal government use of the services of the Poet Laureate as long as this "does not impair the continuation of the work of the individual chosen to fill the position."

The change in name was announced at the end of Gwendolyn Brooks' appointment, and she assuaged any fears about the title change during her last lecture as consultant:

"The administration of the Library of Congress in the past has shown great intelligence in selecting sane, talented and discriminating people to this post—after all, it selected me, didn't it?—and it will continue to do so. It will not select people who will consent to write celebrations for sanitary installations. There is nothing to fear."

Warren had the distinction of serving under both titles when he was appointed the first Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry in 1986, 42 years after his first term as Consultant in Poetry in 1944.

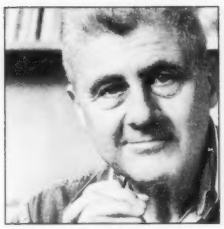
The informality and minimal workload of the position are designed to encourage the poet to write or promote poetry for the period of the consultantship. The methods with which to do one or both of these things vary according to artistic temperaments.

Poets Laureate Programs and Projects

Recently appointed Poet Laureate Ted Kooser has already had a busy introduction to the life of Poet Laureate. He's been interviewed, videotaped, photographed and recorded, and he has appeared in print, on television and on broadcast and satellite radio. Kooser marked the official start of his appointment at his first reading on Oct. 7. During that first visit to Washington as the new Poet Laureate, he also participated in the Library's National Book Festival on the National Mall, where he read his poetry and signed copies of his

Lynne Hammette

This Asian screen and Buddha grace the redecorated Poetry Room.



Howard Nemerov, 1963-1964, 1988-1990

Reed Whittemore, 1964-1965, 1984-1985

Stephen Spender, 1965-1966

James Dickey, 1966-1968

William Jay Smith, 1968-1970

recent book, "Delights and Shadows."

Born in Iowa, Kooser lives in Garland, Neb., and is the first consultant from the Plains states. At Kooser's first reading, Librarian of Congress James H. Billington, in introducing the Poet Laureate, said that Kooser's poetry "makes us think differently about what we take for granted in everyday life"; and described Kooser's style as "spare simplicity."

Kooser, a plain-speaking man of 65, plans to focus his efforts during his term on making poetry accessible to more people and by promoting the reading of poetry. As he said in an early interview, "Poetry can offer readers fresh new ways of looking at the ordinary, everyday world. ... Seeing a very ordinary thing through new eyes. That's what poetry can do for people, for everybody who will give it a chance."

Billy Collins, Poet Laureate from 2001 to 2003, had a similar idea in mind during his two-term tenure. He founded the Web site "Poetry 180," a poem-a-day program to promote the reading of poetry in high schools. The project has been very popular, and the Web site (**www.loc.gov/poetry/180/**) continues to be updated and maintained by the Library's Public Affairs Office.

Other Poets Laureate have quietly championed the work of other, less-established poets. Louise Glück, Poet Laureate from 2003 to 2004, promoted the work of younger artists through her choices for the Library-organized Rebekah Johnson Bobbitt National Prize for Poetry and the Witter Bynner Foundation fellowship. Readings for these award-winning poets were organized and widely promoted by Glück and the Library.

Women as Poetry Consultants

Louise Bogan, the fourth consultant, was the first woman named to the post in 1945. Bogan was known to be outspoken and merciless in her reviews of many fellow poets, notably Auslander and MacLeish. Proud of her independent stance against the literary establishment, Bogan became more obliging after she was appointed consultant. She oversaw the production of literary recordings and convinced W.H. Auden and T.S. Eliot to record their poetry for the Library's poetry archives. Bogan also recorded her own poetry to great success.

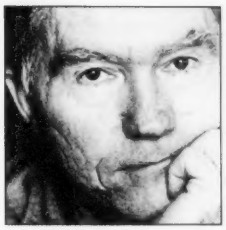
Léonie Adams' appointment was slated to follow Bogan's, but Karl Shapiro was chosen instead. When Shapiro wrote to Tate about the selection, Tate responded that "a man might do this particular job this year better than any woman that could be selected." As "Poetry's Catbird Seat" notes, it is unclear why gender played such an important role in selecting the consultant that year, considering Adams' distinction and that most of the Library's Fellows in American Letters (who played a major role in recommending poets for the job under Librarian Luther Evans) considered her the best poet for the job. Nonetheless, she was chosen two years later, in 1948, and was the first poet to inaugurate the tradition of a reading early in the consultancy.

In total, there have been nine women who have filled the poetry consultant position. Some have chosen to emphasize and promote the work of other women writers, such as Maxine Kumin, who initiated a popular women's series of poetry workshops at the Poetry and Literature Center.

Gwendolyn Brooks was known for her affability and the personal attention she gave to every letter or request to read. Her generosity was legendary. Brooks continued the tradition of hosting "brown bag" noontime poetry readings with one exception; she picked up the lunch tab (sometimes for as many as 20 people) and gave the poets who read $200 for their time and travel.

In a tribute to Brooks, poet Rita Dove pondered Brooks' influence and impact as a writer: "How does one begin to convey the influence Gwendolyn Brooks has had on generations—not only writers, but people from all walks of life? How can one describe the fiercely personal connection her poems make, how to chronicle her enormous impact on recent literary, social and political history? ... Though I never dreamed of following in her footsteps as far as the Pulitzer Prize, her shining example opened up new possibilities for me and generations of younger artists."

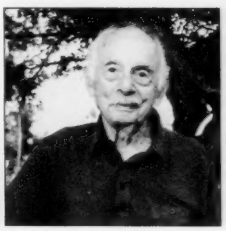
Rita Dove, in turn, also carried out notable projects during her tenure. The seventh Poet Laureate and Pulitzer Prize-winner organized a literary season so exemplary that the Librarian asked her to remain a second term. As



William Stafford, 1970-1971

Josephine Jacobsen, 1971-1973

Daniel Hoffman, 1973-1974



Stanley Kunitz, 1974-1976, 2000-2001

Robert Hayden, 1976-1978

reported in a 1995 Information Bulletin article, Dove was a bit overwhelmed and curious by the free rein she was given. "Nothing was ever questioned. ... When I came in, they said, 'We have these dates and what would you like to do?' At first this is very disconcerting." But she rose to the occasion during her two-year appointment, featuring a variety of authors and programs at the Library, such as young poets from Montana's Crow Nation and a jazz and poetry evening during which poets read while musicians accompanied them.

Audio and Video Poetry Archives

A continuing activity of the Poetry and Literature Center is the invitation of poets and writers to record for the Library's Archives of Recorded Poetry and Literature.

Most incumbent Poets Laureate have furthered the development of the Library's archives of recorded literature, and the center's Web site features video recording and audio files. Recently, some episodes of "Poet Vision," which features poets reading and talking intimately about their work, have been added to the center's Web site. The 12 episodes in the series, videotaped from 1988 to 1990 in Philadelphia and broadcast on television in that area, were donated to the Library of Congress in 2000 and now are held by the Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division.

Grace Cavalieri and "The Poet and the Poem"

"The Poet and the Poem at the Library of Congress," a series of radio interviews with a wide variety of poets, is a labor of love for Grace Cavalieri, an award-winning poet and playwright who founded the series in 1977. The show features poets' readings of their work along with discussions with Cavalieri of their craft and sources of inspiration, often peppered with personal stories and insights about their writing experience.

The hour-long show first aired on WPFW-FM radio in Washington, D.C., where it ran, live on a weekly basis, for 20 years without interruption. After the show was retired from WPFW in 1998, the Witter Bynner Foundation funded an annual series from the Library, with seven one-hour programs recorded per year, which are fed by satellite to public radio stations.

"The Poet and the Poem" will enter its 28th consecutive year in 2005 and is the longest-running program devoted exclusively to poetry in the history of broadcasting. The series, which includes talks with several Poets Laureate and Witter Bynner fellows, is also available for listening on the Poetry Center's Web site at **www.loc.gov/poetry/**.

Wide Angle: the Poetry Collections at the Library

The Library's Manuscript Division maintains and acquires original manuscripts by poets, but a 1969 law preventing living artists from getting a full-market-value tax deduction of their donated works has made it more difficult for the Library to acquire donated literary works.

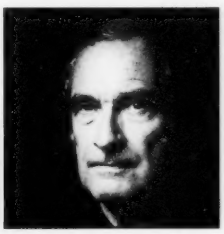
Alice Birney, literary curator in the Library's Manuscript Division, suggests that ideally "there should be a poetry endowment for living artists." Such a cache would persuade poets to give their papers to the Library while receiving a respectable sum for their donation. Still, some very impressive original documents have made their way into the Library's collections, among them correspondence and poems of the Poets Laureate Robert Frost (1958-59) and Louis Untermeyer (1961-63). The Untermeyer-Frost Collection, donated in 1962, contains 500 items and includes letters from Robert Frost to Untermeyer concerning poetry, Frost's philosophy, and their views and interests, together with photographs, published writings and other material by and about Frost, including galley proofs of "The Letters of Robert Frost to Louis Untermeyer (1963)."

In addition, the papers of Poet Laureate Robert Penn Warren (1944-45, 1986-87) and a small group of Joseph Brodsky letters are also included in the division's holdings. The Edna St. Vincent Millay collection of some 40,000 items,

William Meredith, 1978-1980

Maxine Kumin, 1981-1982

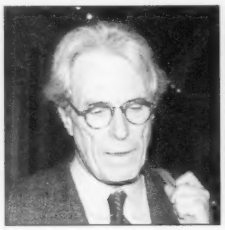
Anthony Hecht, 1982-1984



Robert Fitzgerald, 1984-1985

Gwendolyn Brooks, 1985-1986

Richard Wilbur,
1987-1988



Mark Strand,
1990-1991

Joseph Brodsky,
1991-1992

Mona Van Duyn,
1992-1993

Rita Dove,
1993-1995

including correspondence, diaries, notebooks, photographs, scrapbooks, financial records and family papers, is another important holding in the division. And the division is the world's largest repository of Walt Whitman's papers.

The Manuscript Division also houses the Archives of the Library of Congress, which contains records and correspondence of the Consultants and Poets Laureate, a widely used source of research.

It is the policy of the Library of Congress to collect comprehensively works by both established and new American poets regarded as having literary merit or as representing current trends in writing. In addition to volumes of poems by individual authors, the Library's general collections include anthologies and periodicals whose contents consist primarily of poetry; new critical and authoritative collections of prominent poets' works; and historical, theoretical, critical, scholarly and bibliographical studies of poetry. For the most part, the Library attempts to maintain a research-level collection of poetry by and about authors from other countries.

While most major American research libraries have strong collections in literature and language, and no single library holds every published work by every poet, the Library's collections are unrivaled for the breadth and depth of their coverage. The general collections of the Library of Congress contain published works of poetry from most of the countries of the world in most of the languages of the world. But—both because the Library of Congress (in addition to serving Congress) serves as the national library of the United States and because of the copyright deposit law—its holdings of American poetry are particularly strong. Special credit in this regard must go to the sixth Librarian of Congress (1864-1897), Ainsworth Rand Spofford.

It was Spofford who first recognized the importance of copyright deposit in developing a comprehensive collection of the nation's literature and who worked to obtain congressional approval of the Copyright Act of 1870, which centralized all copyright activities at the Library of Congress and required that anyone claiming a copyright for printed material send two copies of the item in question to the Library of Congress. With the passage of this act, the foundation was laid for the world's most extensive collection of Americana.

The general collections of the Library of Congress, therefore, contain holdings of American literature and poetry unsurpassed in scope, along with works that analyze, criticize and interpret them. Although first editions of numerous prominent poets' works are sent to the Rare Book and Special Collections Division, additional copies and subsequent editions are added to the general collections.

Poetry is very much at home in the Library of Congress. As Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole has written in "On These Walls": "The Library is steeped in poetry; indeed, the Jefferson Building's walls are covered with poets' words. Quotes by Tennyson, Keats, Wordsworth, Emerson, Milton, Byron and Virgil, among others, grace the walls. Sculptures representing Shakespeare and Homer keep watch in the Main Reading Room. And a celebration of poets is depicted in Henry Oliver Walker's mural "Lyric Poetry."

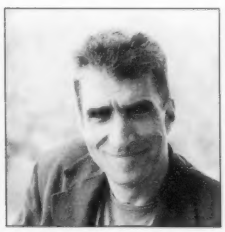
Joseph Auslander, on being named to the post of Poetry Consultant in 1936, penned his acceptance in poesy:

> The simple phrase of gratitude
> Is something rather felt than heard:
> Your quiet graces ruse
> The overstrident thought or word.
> Wherefore this letter I indite
> returns in but a meagre measure
> The courtesy that gave delight,
> The fellowship that furnished
> pleasure.

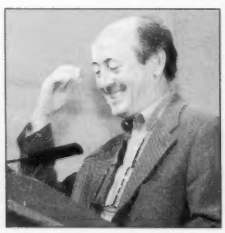
Subsequent Poets Laureate, in their unique ways, have assumed the post with similar gratitude—and determination to increase the awareness and accessibility of poetry. ◆

Bibi Martí was a public affairs specialist in the Library's Public Affairs Office.

Robert Hass,
1995-1997



Robert Pinsky,
1997-2000



Billy Collins,
2001-2003

Louise Glück,
2003-2004

Ted Kooser,
2004-

'Dancing on the Ashes'

Poet Rita Dove Returns to the Library

By AUDREY FISCHER

Poetry fans turned out in great numbers to hear former Poet Laureate Rita Dove read from her newly published book, "American Smooth," at the Library in September. In this collection she has turned to her long-held passion for dancing as well as her newfound interest in target shooting as vehicles for recovery from a devastating fire caused by a lightning strike that badly damaged her home in 1998. Dove's reading was both dramatic and confessional.

"We were literally dancing on the ashes," said Dove, who, along with her husband, took up ballroom dancing. Dance has given her a new metaphor for her work and a theme for her new collection of poems. "It was an umbrella for my work and a way back to writing."

"'American Smooth' is a division of ballroom dance," said Dove. "Typical of the U.S., it takes dances from around the world and pushes them further, improvises." In the title poem, Dove adds to this definition:

> "ecstatic mimicry
> being the *sine qua non*
> of American Smooth"

From "Fox Trot Fridays" to "Rhumba," "Samba Summer" to "Castle Walk," the poems are not so much about dance as a way to use music and dance as a backdrop to explore other themes.

In "Samba Summer" she tells the story of the "Broke-leg cakewalk of the drunken uncles/entertaining the ladies at the family picnic." She spoke of her youth growing up in Akron, Ohio, in "Two for the Montrose Drive-In," where she drew inspiration from times when her mother would host an event at home and she, her father and brother fled the house for the drive-in theater.

Later, she dramatically read several poems from a section of the book titled, "Blues in Half-Tones, ¾ Time." In "Castle Walk" and "Return of Lieutenant James Reese Europe," Dove focused on one of many African American soldiers who joined the World War I Allied forces under French command, where their contribution to the war effort was welcomed. Talented musician James Reese Europe not only fought with the heavily decorated 369th regiment—the first to fight its way to the Rhine in 1918—but also entertained the troops with his innovative style of music that introduced the unique American sound of jazz to Europe. Prior to the war, Reese and his band had been hired by the husband-and-wife team of Vernon and Irene Castle to accompany their dance and vaudeville performances. Europe and his band gained fame and success through his association with the Castles and their well-known "Castle Walk" dance step.

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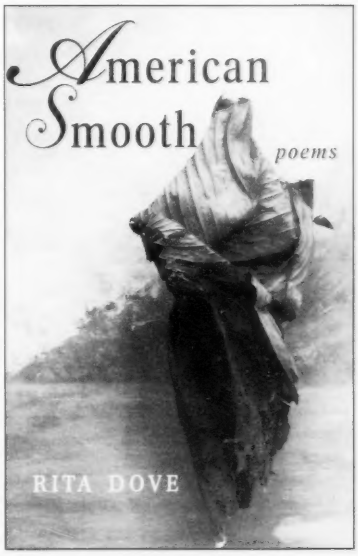

All photos by Sheryl Cannady

Former Poet Laureate Rita Dove enthralls the audience with selections from her new book, "American Smooth," at her September reading.

E-Government: A Progress Report

FLICC Hosts 2004 Technology Update

By CAROLYN S. LARSON

Making government services more accessible and accountable through the use of information technology was the dominant theme of the Federal Library and Information Center Committee's (FLICC) 2004 Technology Update, "The E-Government Act of 2002: A Progress Report," held on Sept.1. More than 60 federal librarians and information professionals attended the all-day program at the Library of Congress in which a series of speakers described provisions of the 2002 E-Government Act and summarized the recommendations and continuing work of the Interagency Committee on Government Information (ICGI) established by the act.

Setting the stage was Patrice McDermott, deputy director of the American Library Association's Office of Government Relations. Stressing the important role that input from libraries played in the formulation of the law, she singled out requirements in three key areas: making government information more accessible both in the near and long term; "leveling the playing field," including gauging the public impact of moving to e-government services; and providing a more accountable government by helping people obtain information held by multiple agencies in an integrated fashion. McDermott concluded by urging the audience to "stay tuned." When all the recommendations are in, she asked: "Will the Office of Management and Budget ensure the implementation of the e-government policies? Will Congress do useful oversight? Will the public be consulted?"

Following McDermott's talk, Eliot Christian of the U.S. Geological Survey and architect of the Global Information Locator Service (GILS), reviewed the mission and activities of the ICGI, which has set up three work groups to carry out its charge—Categorization of Information, Electronic Records Policy and Web Content Management. Christian, as chair of the Categorization of Information work group, then introduced a series of speakers who highlighted topics considered by that group—the definition of government information, searchable identifiers, categorization and interoperable search—topics that are further addressed in two draft documents to be finalized and submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) by Dec. 17. They are "Requirements for Enabling the Identification, Categorization and Consistent Retrieval of Government Information" and "Recommendations for Search Interoperability."

T.C. Evans, deputy Superintendent of Documents, walked attendees through the topic "Defining What Government Information Is to Be Categorized." Emphasizing that a clear definition is critical "to enable citizens to obtain a predictable body of search results of similar granularity across varying communities of practice," Evans presented the following definition of government information:

"Any information product regardless of form or format that a U.S. federal agency discloses, publishes, disseminates or makes available to the public, as well as information produced for administrative or operational purposes that is of public interest or educational value."

Included is information created or exchanged within or between agencies or that may be subject to Freedom of Information Act requests. Not included is information that is restricted because of security or privacy concerns; information about the government such as television newscasts, or objects owned by or loaned to the government.

Moving beyond a definition of government information, James Erwin, director of Information Science and Technology at the Defense Technical Information Center, discussed the importance of searchable identifiers in retrieving that information, addressing the questions, "What are searchable identifiers?" "What are their requirements?" and "How can they be used to improve access to government information?" Erwin described searchable identifiers as uniquely identifying an information object and supporting persistent access both to the object and to information about the object. They must generate globally unique object names; be distributed, open, extensible and scalable; must support both tangible and intangible information objects; must work with existing identifiers such as the ISSN; and must be human readable. At the same time, they must be easy to use, support multiple interfaces, be compatible with existing and emerging standards, and be able to transition to future technologies in order to provide long-term persistent access.

In addition to persistent identifiers, consistent categorization of government information is key to providing access to that information, according to Richard Huffine, manager of the National Library Network of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Such categorization must allow for multiple access points, provide context for the information provided and make it possible to select from large amounts of information and identify authoritative sources. The work group has made several specific recommendations, including developing categories, such as title and creator, based on the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (**www.dublincore.org**), combined with the establishment of authority controls for key fields in order to promote consistency. Huffine

noted that the work group is still grappling with a number of issues, including the granularity of information that should be categorized, ways to categorize older materials and a feasible time line for implementation.

Christian rounded out the morning session by presenting "The Case for Standards-based Interoperable Search." Noting that interoperable search is like plumbing—"when it is done right, you don't see it"—he observed that although searchers may not be aware of interoperability, it allows them to search across different systems despite system differences. He described the current situation as one of "stovepipes" of information provided by federal, state and local agencies, running on hardware and software from many different vendors. In general, each of these "stovepipes" needs to be searched separately. As a result, searchers run the risk of getting only partial, questionable results; analysts miss opportunities for synthesis; and government agencies miss opportunities to leverage each others' information sources. Theoretically, searching across all these at once might be done by gathering all the data into a single source run by one vendor. Christian noted that while this solution is conceptually simple, it is "unworkable on a practical level" and "unacceptable on a public policy level." On the other hand, using a standards-based interoperable search system, any agency can use any search technology that supports the standard.

The morning concluded with a lively question-and-answer session led by James King, chief librarian of the Naval Research Laboratory library. Among the issues raised were the need to include information produced *for* the government as well as *by* the government in the definition of government information, the potential archival role of agencies such as the Government Printing Office and the Library of Congress and the need to "push" agencies to treat e-records as official records.

Michael Kurtz, assistant archivist of the National Archives and Records Administration, opened the afternoon session by summarizing the work of the Electronic Records Policy work group. Included in its charge is the identification of common characteristics of temporary and permanent e-records and barriers to effective management of these records, as well as the development of tools and other recommendations for short- and long-term e-record creation and management. Summarizing the group's progress in each of these areas, Kurtz noted that it is on a fast track, with draft recommendations due to the ICGI by Sept. 30. The group has proposed eight metadata elements to describe e-government records and identified several crucial barriers to their management, including the failure of agencies to view e-records as critical assets related to their missions. This failure has resulted in poor implementation with little integration between records management and information technology activities. To address these issues, the group is working on an Electronic Records Management toolkit, which, if approved, might be available by the second quarter of 2005 and include tools in use or in development offering best practices, guidance, process models, lessons learned, training programs, tips and techniques and policies.

Concluding the forum was a presentation on the Web Content Management work group by Bev Godwin, director, and Sheila Campbell, senior content manager, of Firstgov. Godwin elicited chuckles from attendees when she displayed a screen labeled "The Las Vegas Effect" filled with more than 25 "required" links or logos previously mandated by various pieces of legislation or agency directives. Noting that the group's goal is to make U.S. government Web sites "the most citizen-centric and user-friendly in the world," she introduced Campbell, who provided details on seven policy recommendations in the ICGI's Recommended Policies and Guidelines for Federal Public Web sites now under consideration by OMB and expected to form the basis for guidelines to be issued by December. Included are recommendations to: ensure the authenticity, branding and timeliness of federal government public Web sites; present information written and organized from the audience's point of view; display information in a way that is easy to access and use; simplify and unify information across the government; require agencies to establish priorities and a schedule for posting content on their public Web sites; ensure agencies continue to comply with existing federal laws and regulations; and develop a continuing structure to guide Web content policies and requirements into the future. ◆

Carolyn S. Larson is business reference specialist in the business reference section of the Science, Technology and Business Division.

Dove

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Dove also pays homage to the more mundane, as in her poem titled "Chocolate" ("Velvet fruit, exquisite square/ I hold up to sniff between finger and thumb") and even to "The Bullet" ("I can slice the air no wind") in a series of poems about her foray into target shooting.

"There's an eerie delight in hitting a target," observed Dove. "But it's also profoundly disturbing." Either way, this new hobby has found its way into her poetry.

"As I tell my students, you don't have a choice about whether you write something," said Dove. "You only have a choice about whether or not you publish it. It will hunt you down until you finally get it off your chest."

The result is "American Smooth," whose title poem Dove read at the close of the program.

> "And because I was distracted
> by the effort of
> keeping my frame
> (the leftward lean, head turned
> just enough to gaze out
> past your ear and always
> smiling, smiling),
> I didn't notice
> How still you'd become until
> We had done it
> (for two measures?
> Four?)-achieved flight
> That swift and serene
> Magnificence,
> Before the earth
> Remembered who we were
> And brought us down." ◆

Audrey Fischer is a public affairs specialist in the Library's Public Affairs Office. Brad McCoy, senior studio engineer in the Recorded Sound Section of the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division, contributed to this story.

Multilingual Law

GLIN Directors Try New Legal Research System

By ROBERT MANDER

A prototype of an updated Global Legal Information Network (GLIN) system that will function in four languages was demonstrated to GLIN directors at an annual meeting at the Library on Sept. 14.

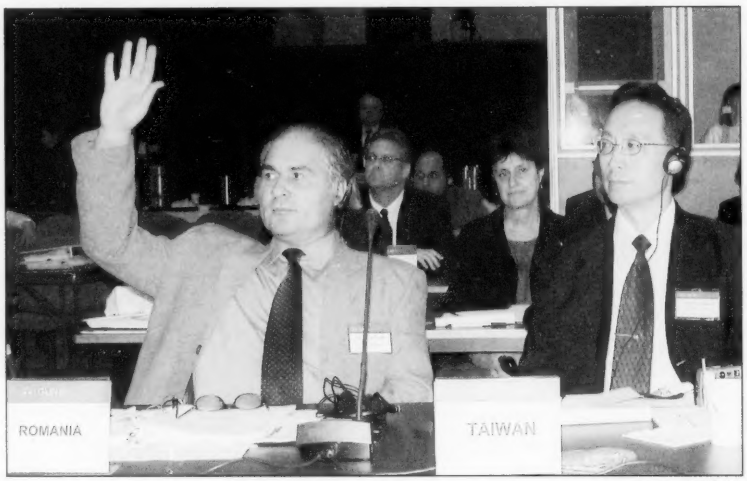
Law Librarian Rubens Medina told the network's directors that development of the prototype "marks a turning point for GLIN." Users will be able to browse and navigate the GLIN system in Spanish, Portuguese and French as well as in English.

The new GLIN system, intended for broad public use, is scheduled to be fully operational in 2005.

Consisting of 24 contributing members, two supporting members and three associate members, GLIN is a cooperative federation of national, multinational and international governing bodies that contribute legal instruments and summaries in digital formats to an authoritative database that is accessible to online researchers using the GLIN system. The GLIN database includes 130,203 summaries and 82,298 full-text documents.

The new system will expand the capability to both input and retrieve records in all four GLIN system modules—statutes, judicial decisions, legal writings and legislative records.

Upgraded search options and query tools will enable researchers and network members to find information online more quickly and accurately. A newly installed subject term index linked to GLIN's comprehensive thesaurus will facilitate search and browse functions for legal researchers.



Dee McGee

Live simultaneous translations facilitate the direct participation by GLIN directors, including Dan Adrian Chirita of Romania and Bin-Chung Huang of Taiwan.

GLIN directors attending the 11th annual meeting tested the new system and provided feedback to designers.

In his remarks to directors, Medina expressed his appreciation for 2003 congressional support of the new GLIN system. Congress appropriated fiscal year 2004 funds for a multiyear program to enhance the GLIN system.

Medina noted the importance of maintaining an authoritative source of legal materials available for online research. GLIN members have documented that they rely increasingly on the Internet as a primary source of legal information, but not all digital information is reliable, he said. "I am more convinced than ever that GLIN has set the highest standards for reliable legal information on the Internet. Our commitment to providing access to official sources of law cannot be compromised," he said.

In welcoming remarks, Chief of Staff Jo Ann Jenkins underscored the importance of GLIN's contribution to understanding global law by citing philosopher John Locke's assertion that "Wherever law ends, tyranny begins."

Today's challenges include preserving law for future generations at a time when some nations have begun publishing their laws only in digital formats, Jenkins added. ◆

Robert Mander is a writer-editor in the Law Library of Congress.

GLIN Given Digital Collection of 11,000 Treaties

The Law Library of Congress has acquired a digital collection of 11,000 U.S. treaties and other international agreements spanning the years 1774-1984 for inclusion in the digital files of the Global Legal Information Network (GLIN).

The acquisition was made possible by a donation from William S. Hein & Co. Inc., the world's largest distributor of legal documents.

Law Librarian Rubens Medina accepted the Hein collection on behalf of the network. Encompassing 131 print volumes of public-domain text comprising more than five gigabytes of data, the Hein collection will be posted on GLIN's Web site. GLIN members and the public will have free access to the online collection.

Medina presented a certificate of appreciation to Shannon Hein, international sales director for Hein & Co., at the 11th annual GLIN directors meeting on Sept. 16 at the Library. "Given the increasing importance and volume of international agreements, we are indeed grateful to Hein for making this material available to us. It is a major asset that will greatly enhance the U.S. GLIN file," Medina said. ◆

Down the Rabbit-Hole

Rare Lewis Carroll Scrapbook Available Online

The Library of Congress' Rare Book and Special Collections Division has released a digital presentation titled "The Lewis Carroll Scrapbook Collection," which is available on the Web at **http://international.loc.gov/intldl/carrollhtml**. This new collection is part of the Library's Global Gateway Web site of international materials.

"The Lewis Carroll Scrapbook" is an original scrapbook kept by Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, a lecturer in mathematics at the University of Oxford. He is better known as Lewis Carroll, the Victorian-era children's author of such titles as "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" (1865) and "Through the Looking-Glass" (1871). The scrapbook appears to have been kept by Carroll between the years 1855 and1872 and contains approximately 130 items, including newspaper clippings, illustrations and photographs. These items were personally selected and arranged by Carroll, giving the user insight into his interests and collecting habits. The scrapbook also includes a limited number of handwritten annotations, some presumably by Carroll. The scrapbook was sold after Carroll's death in 1898 to Frederic L. Huidekoper, an undergraduate at Oxford, during a sale held at the Holywell Music Rooms. The Library of Congress acquired it shortly thereafter.

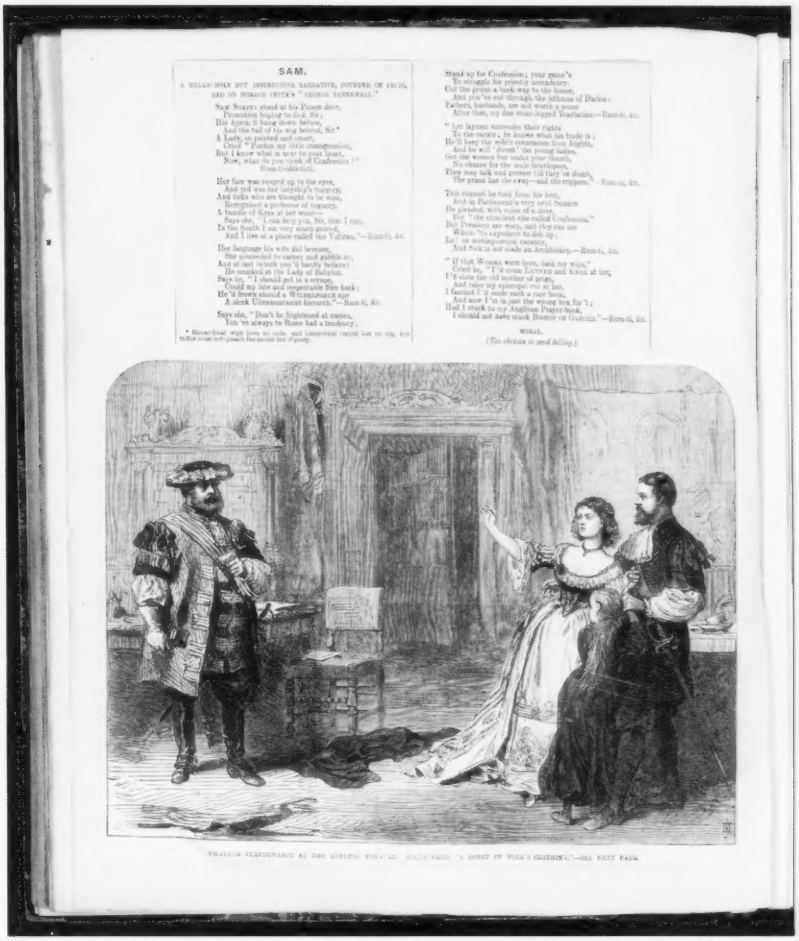

SAM.

Illustration of "A Sheep in Wolf's Clothing," a performance that the Rev. Charles Lutwidge Dodgson—better known as Lewis Carroll—saw at the Olympic Theatre in London, on April 22, 1857.

The online collection includes special presentations by Lewis Carroll scholar Edward Wakeling. He has prepared an introduction to the scrapbook, a time line of events that occurred while Carroll made the scrapbook, a time line of Carroll's life, a list of Carroll's key works and a portrait gallery of people whose names appear in the scrapbook. Another Lewis Carroll scholar, August Imholtz, assisted Wakeling in preparing bibliographic notes for items in the scrapbook.

The collection was processed with optical character recognition (OCR) software and hand-encoded in SGML to allow users to search the full text of the scrapbook for a word or phrase. This feature enhances the usefulness of the site by allowing users to search not only titles and authors, but also the full text of items.

This online presentation of "The Lewis Carroll Scrapbook" joins other collections from around the world that are available through the Global Gateway Web site. These collections can be seen at **www.loc.gov/international**. In the "Collaborative Digital Libraries" section are materials from Brazil, the Netherlands, Russia and Spain. The "Digital Collections" section provides links to thematic presentations, including "Puerto Rico at the Dawn of the Modern Age," "The Spanish-American War in Motion Pictures" and the extraordinary "Prokudin-Gorskii Collection" of photographs of Russia taken just before the 1917 revolution. ◆

The Cream of Science

Sainsbury Gift Enriches Library Collections

By RONALD S. WILKINSON

Two generous donors, Madison Council member Lady Sainsbury and her husband, Lord Sainsbury of Turville, minister for science and technology in the British government, made a grand contribution to the Library in 2000 of UK £250,000, at that time $400,000, to be used for the purchase of rare and important works in the history of science and technology needed to fill gaps in the Library's collections.

A committee of acquisition specialists and recommending officers familiar with the literature of the history of science and the Library's holdings in the field was formed to determine how best to spend the funds. For many years the Library has held one of the most extensive and impressive collections on the subject in the world, but the Sainsbury gift enabled the institution to purchase items from its list of important desiderata and to carry forward a very important goal: the purchase of more of the remaining editions needed to complete the so-called "Horblit Project." This is the acquisition of all of the editions mentioned and described by Harrison D. Horblit in his 1964 book "One Hundred Books Famous in Science," which actually describes 129 titles.

Library officials alerted dealers in rare scientific publications of its interest, and within a reasonable time the Library was able to expend the Sainsbury gift by purchasing a number of very impressive rare scientific and technological books—18 titles in all. They are enumerated and briefly described below as a substantial and welcome addition to the science collections of the Library of Congress.

• Bernard, Claude. "Introduction à l'étude de la médecine expérimentale." Paris: Baillière et Fils, 1865. Horblit 11b. This important dissertation on the "scientific method" by the founder of experimental medicine contains an analysis of his experimental methods in physiology, which contributed to advances of great significance in biology and other sciences.

• Carnot, Nicolas L. Sadi. "Réflexions sur la puissance motrice du feu et sur les machines propres à développer cette puissance." Paris: Bachelier, 1824. This landmark book anticipated both the first and second laws of thermodynamics. It led directly to the statement of the theory of the conservation of energy by Helmholtz in 1847. An 1878 reprint of Carnot's work included the contents of notebooks that showed that Carnot himself had formulated this theory, which is now the first law of thermodynamics. The second law of thermodynamics is also implicit in Carnot's treatise.

• Cuvier, Georges L.C.F.D. "Recherches sur les ossemens fossiles de quadrupèdes." 4 vols. Paris: chez Deterville, 1812. Horblit 20b. This is one of the foundation works in the sciences of paleontology and comparative anatomy, in which Cuvier was paramount in his lifetime. This title is the inauguration of vertebrate paleontology.

• Fulton, Robert. "Report on the Proposed Canal Between the Rivers Heyl and Helford." [London, 1796]. Fulton was one of the most important figures in early American technology. Before his steamboat Clermont first ascended the Hudson River in 1807, he worked for years in England and France on industrial development, especially inland navigation and the cutting of canals. His publications on these topics are very rare, and the Library's recently acquired copy of the present title is the only one known to be in the United States.

• Galvani, Luigi. De viribus electricitatis in motu musculari. In "De Bononiensi Scientiarum et Artium Instituto atque Academia Commentarii, tomus septimus." Bologna: ex Typographia Instituti Scientiarum, 1791. Horblit 37a. This is the true first edition of Galvani's report on his discovery of "galvanism," the phenomenon of the production of electric current from the contact of two different metals in a moist situation, in this case a frog's legs. The volume is accompanied by vols. II, III, IV and V of "De Bononiensi Scientiarum." Though lacking vols. I and VIII, the Library's set becomes the most complete run of this important scientific journal in an American repository.

• Hales, Stephen. "Vegetable Staticks: or, An Account of Some Statical Experiments on the Sap in Vegetables: Being an Essay Towards a Natural History of Vegetation." London: W. and J. Innys, 1727. Horblit 45a. Bound uniformly with:

• Hales, Stephen. "Statical Essays: Containing Haemastaticks; or, An Account of Some Hydraulick and Hydrostatical Experiments Made on the Blood and Blood Vessels of Animals." London: W. Innys and R. Manby ... and T. Woodward, 1733. Horblit 45b. In the first volume, Hales contributed a seminal account of plant physiology, including the movement of sap, and the discovery that carbon dioxide is supplied to plants by the air and forms a vital part of the plants' food supply. The second volume contains the studies in blood pressure that made Hales one of the founders of modern experimental physiology. The fine, matching bindings are contemporary with the volumes.

• Heck, Johannes van [or Eck, or van Heeck]. "De nova stella disputatio." Rome: A. Zanetti, 1605. This is the first publication of the first international scientific society, the Accademia dei Lincei, which was founded in 1603. The book, about the supernova of 1604, is extremely rare, with no previously known copies in the United States or Great Britain and only a few known copies in Italy. Heck (1579-1616) was one of the four original members of the "Lynxes," an association of learned men gathered around Federico Cesi, which fixed as their objectives the study of science and mathematics, the pursuit of new knowledge and the publication of scientific discoveries.

• Hutton, James. "Theory of the Earth, with Proofs and Illustrations." 2 vols. Edinburgh: Cadell, Junior, and Davies, London; and William Creech, Edinburgh, 1795. Horblit 52a. This is the first edition of the modern theory of the formation of the earth's crust, the doctrine of uniformitarianism. The

doctrine first appeared in lectures read at the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1785 and published in the Society's Transactions in 1788. Attacks on Hutton's ideas, that the crust was formed gradually and by forces still observable now, led him to expand his thesis into this two-volume classic published in 1795.

• Huygens, Christian. "Systema Saturnium, sive de causis mirandorum Saturni phaenomenon, et comite ejus planeta novo." The Hague: Adrian Vlacq, 1659. When Galileo observed Saturn with his telescope, he could not account for its odd shape; it appeared to have arms! Huygens, with a larger and much improved instrument, approximated the truth: that Saturn was surrounded by a ring. In the "Systema" he also described Saturn's largest and brightest satellite. (The announcements were preceded by a one-sentence anagram by Huygens in Petrus Borel's "De vero telescopii inventore," 1655/56, inserted to secure priority.)

• Huygens, Christian. "Traité de la lumière." Leyden, P. vander Aa, 1690. Horblit 54. One of the major classics of optics, this laid out the wave theory of light as opposed to the corpuscular theory favored by Newton. Modern physicists combine both theories. The second part of the book contains Huygens' mechanical explanation of gravity. Gravity should not be attributed to a quality or propensity of bodies, but should be explained, like every other natural process, in terms of motion.

• Newton, Isaac. "Optical Lectures Read in the Publick Schools of the University of Cambridge," anno domini, 1669. London: F. Fayram, 1728. This is the first edition of these lectures, originally delivered much earlier, which were published by his family following his death in 1727. The lectures predate the content of Newton's major, and basic, contribution to the subject, "Opticks" (London, 1704).

• Palissy, Bernard. "Discours admirables, de la nature des eaux et fonteines." Paris: Martin le Jeune, 1580. Palissy was far ahead of his time in scientific matters, and this is the first edition of an important book in a number of sciences. The "Discours" deals with an impressive array of subjects: agriculture, alchemy, botany, ceramics, embalming, engineering, geology, hydrology, medicine, metallurgy, meteorology, mineralogy, paleontology, philosophy, physics, toxicology and zoology.

An early work by Sir Isaac Newton is part of the Sainsbury gift.

• Scheele, Carl Wilhelm. "Chemische Abhandlung von der Luft und dem Feuer." Upsula and Leipzig, Magnus Swederus, 1777. Horblit 92. The announcement of Scheele's discovery of oxygen was made independently of, and two years prior to, Priestley. The composition of air by two gases is demonstrated, one necessary for combustion and respiration, and the other preventing combustion. Scheele finished his research in 1773 but publication of his findings was delayed.

• Stahl, Georg Ernst. "Fundamenta chymiae dogmaticae & experimentalis." Nuremberg: J.E. Adelburner for W.M. Endter, 1723. This sets out the first formulation of the influential phlogiston theory of combustion, one of the first rational systems of chemistry based on experimental observations. "Phlogiston," the principle of combustibility, was central to the revision of 18th century chemistry to account for observable phenomena by reformers such as Stahl. The phlogiston theory provided a reasoned explanation for many of these phenomena, until it was superseded by the new concept of chemistry developed at the end of the 18th century by French chemists. The phlogiston concept was, however, a transitional theory of the greatest importance in the history of science.

• Sprengel, Christian Konrad. "Das entdeckte Geheimniss der Natur im Bau und in der Befruchtung der Blumen." Berlin: Friedrich Vieweg, 1793. This pioneering study of the sexuality of plants greatly influenced Darwin's later work. Sprengel concluded that the structure of the flower was an adaptation to secure pollination by one or several species of insects and showed cross-pollination to be the rule rather than the exception. These conclusions were surprising and ahead of their time, and they were largely forgotten until Darwin brought them again before the world.

• Werner, Abraham Gottlieb. "Von den äusserlichen Kennzeichen der Fossilien." Leipzig: S.L. Cousins, 1774. Werner developed a completely new system for the description of minerals. He was the first to understand that the correct classification of minerals should be based on their chemical composition and that minerals could be identified by their external charac-

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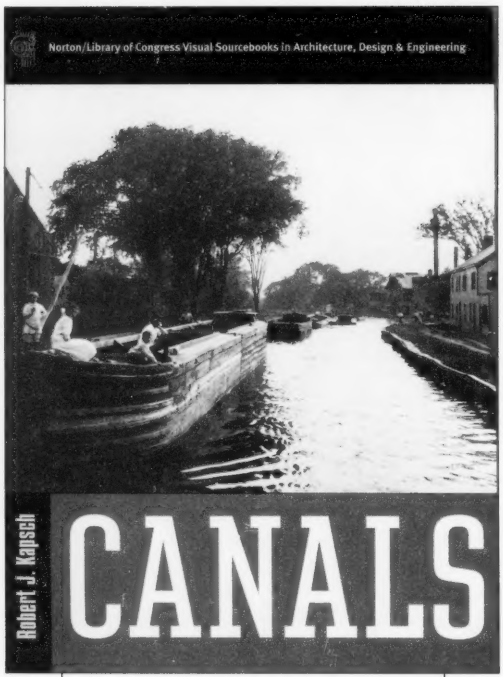
'Canals'

New Visual Sourcebook Now Available

"Canals" by Robert J. Kapsch is the second volume in the Norton/Library of Congress Visual Sourcebooks in its Architectural, Design and Engineering series and has just been published by the Library of Congress in association with W.W. Norton and Co. It joins "Barns" by George Washington University professor John Michael Vlach, which features more than 800 illustrations from the Library's collections of these unique cultural landmarks.



Drawing on the Library's extensive collection of photographs, illustrations and architectural drawings, "Canals" provides the largest single source of material for those interested in the fascinating history of America's first transportation network. The book offers a tour of the more than three dozen structures that by 1835 constituted the 2,500-mile system of canals from New England to the South and from the East Coast to the Midwest. It provides a more detailed visual journey along two of the nation's most famous canals: the Chesapeake and Ohio in the District of Columbia and Maryland (now a national park) and the Morris Canal in New Jersey (largely lost to development).

With captions that furnish relevant information about each image as well as the Library of Congress call number, the book is an essential reference for all enthusiasts of canal landscape and lore. The accompanying CD-ROM contains high-quality, downloadable versions of all the illustrations. The CD also offers a direct link to the Library's online searchable catalogs and image files, including the hundreds of thousands of high-resolution photographs, measured drawings and data files in the Historic American Buildings Survey, Historic American Engineering Record and other collections.

Kapsch is currently the National Park Service senior scholar in historic architecture and engineering. As special assistant to the deputy director of the National Park Service, he served as project engineer for the restoration of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and its structures. He served for 15 years as chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record collectionss, which are now held by the Library of Congress, and is the author of several definitive histories of early American canal engineering, including "The Potomac Canal: A Construction History" and "The Conewago Canal: Pennsylvania's First Canal."

Authentic music from the canal boat era, selected from the collections of the Library's American Folklife Center by folk archivist Andy Wallace, provided an appropriate accompaniment to remarks about the book by Kapsch at the Library on Oct. 19. Introduced by Ford Peatross, the Library's curator for architecture, design and engineering collections, Kapsch confessed that he had had a "lifetime fascination with American canals," and that "just working on the book was a great joy to me." During his talk he focused on the building of the canals in the Washington area, discussed the technology used and noted that seven canals were planned or built in and around the city. Admitting that the book was a true labor of love for him, Kapsch concluded by saying, tongue in cheek, that his only "serious disagreement" in the course of the production of the volume was "the size of the type font of my name on the cover."

"Canals" and "Barns" are each available for $75 in bookstores nationwide and through the Library's Sales Shop, Washington, DC 20540-4985. Credit card orders are taken at (888) 682-3557. Online orders can be placed at **www.loc.gov/shop/**. ◆

Sainsbury
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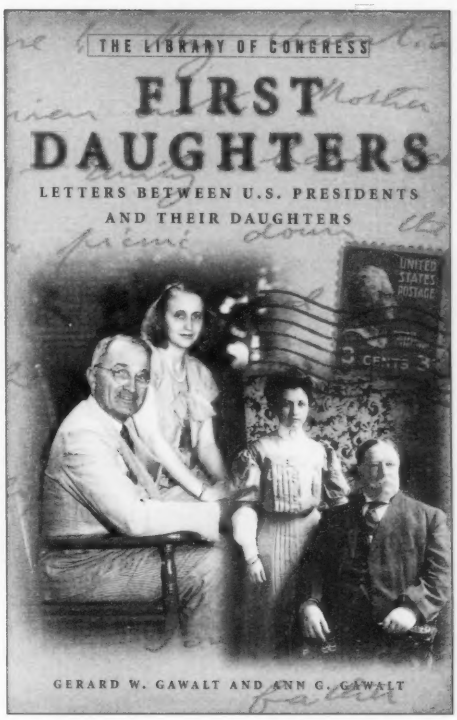
teristics. As a result of this volume, Wernerian nomenclature took a firm hold on the European continent and in England.

A substantial portion of the Sainsbury gift was used toward the purchase of a replacement set of William Curtis' Botanical magazine (1787–). The Library's set of its hand-colored plates was ravaged by thieves. Madison Council member William G. Myers donated a large sum to be used for the purchase of another set, and when a suitable set was located, the difference between the Myers gift and the selling price was spent from the Sainsbury gift. (See Information Bulletin, October 2003.) ◆

Ronald S. Wilkinson is the historian of science and scientific literature in the Science, Technology and Business Division.

Presidents and Their Daughters

Letters Featured in New Library Publication


THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
FIRST DAUGHTERS
LETTERS BETWEEN U.S. PRESIDENTS AND THEIR DAUGHTERS
UNITED STATES POSTAGE
GERARD W. GAWALT AND ANN G. GAWALT

"First Daughters: Letters Between U.S. Presidents and Their Daughters" has recently been published by the Library of Congress in association with Black Dog & Leventhal Publishers.

"This compelling anthology draws upon the Library's vast collections of presidential papers, as well as those of other presidential libraries and private libraries, to open a unique window into the special familial relationships of our first families," said Librarian of Congress James H. Billington. "As the digital age moves forward, we hope that institutions that preserve presidential papers will follow the Library's lead and make them available through the Internet."

The latest in a long list of Library of Congress publications of treasures from the personal papers of America's presidents, "First Daughters" includes many letters being published for the first time, as well as photographs and original artwork.

"Thirty-one U.S. presidents have been the fathers of girls, and most of them took time from their public lives to write private letters to their daughters on a wide range of subjects," said Gerard W. Gawalt, historian and curator of presidential papers at the Library of Congress, who compiled the correspondence in collaboration with his daughter Ann G. Gawalt, an attorney with an interest in history, politics and women's rights.

The book chronicles the triumphs, hopes, tragedies and daily lives of 21 presidents and their daughters, as recorded in their private correspondence. Grouped thematically, the letters reveal how different presidents and daughters handled similar issues such as marriage, education and politics. The correspondence is presented with minimal editing to allow the correspondents to speak for themselves. As a result, readers are given full access to the personalities and times that inspired them.

The Library's Manuscript Division holds the papers of 23 American presidents from George Washington to Calvin Coolidge, comprising some 2 million manuscripts. The Library's digital initiative has made the papers of three U.S. presidents—George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln—available free of charge on the Library's Web site at **www.loc.gov/memory**. Also available on the Web site are selected items from 54 presidential inaugurations from George Washington to George W. Bush and portraits of presidents and first ladies from George and Martha Washington to Bill and Hillary Clinton.

A selection of items drawn from these presidential collections will be on view in a special display about presidential inaugurations in the Library's "American Treasures" exhibition on view through May 7, 2005.

"First Daughters," a 320-page hardcover book with black-and-white illustrations, is available for $17.95 in bookstores nationwide and in the Library of Congress Sales Shop, Washington, DC 20540-4985. Credit card orders are taken at (888) 682-3557 and online orders can be placed at **www.loc.gov/shop**/. ◆

Guide to Astronomy Resources On the Web Available Online

Astronomy is the subject of the newest "Selected Internet Resources in Science and Technology" guide prepared by the Science Reference Section of the Library's Science, Technology and Business Division. The guide lists selected Web resources in astronomy in several categories, including Planetary Resources (for our solar system and others), Near-Earth Objects (NEOs), Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI), Observatories and Electronic Magazines. Recreational learning resources are also included.

Previously issued Web resource guides cover topics such as molecular biology, bioinformatics and women in science, technology and medicine, as well as other areas of research interest. A number of these guides are available free of charge in hard copy in the Science and Business Reading Room, located on the fifth floor of the Library's Adams Building on Capitol Hill, and all of them are accessible online at **www.loc.gov/rr/scitech/resources.html.** ◆

News from the Center for the Book

Center Leads Trip to South Africa

By JOHN Y. COLE

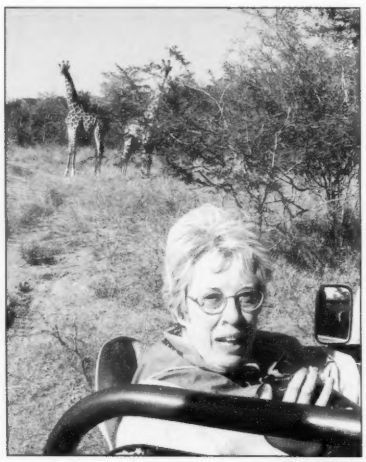
The link between democracy and reading was a theme for a study tour to South Africa led by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress last spring. "South Africa: A Journey to Promote Reading & Literacy" focused on reading and literacy promotion efforts currently under way in schools, libraries and educational institutions throughout South Africa and took place during the 10th anniversary year of the new South African democracy. Participants learned about the "new" South Africa directly from their South African counterparts, sharing ideas and experiences with people who also believe in the power of books, reading, literacy and libraries.

The South African Centre for the Book, a unit of the National Library of South Africa, helped organize the visit from May 25 to June 4 in cooperation with Alterra Global Education Initiatives, an organization that specializes in educational and professional exchanges between South Africa and the United States.

The trip co-leaders, who shared responsibility for the professional planning and programming, were Judith R. Casey, an educator, board member of the Colorado Center for the Book and president of the Colorado Chapter of the International Reading Association (CCIRA), and this writer. Twenty-two teachers, librarians and reading promoters took part, including several associated with the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress: program specialist Anne Boni; Catherine Gourley, national director of the center's Letters About Literature program; Jean Trebbi, former director of the Florida Center for the Book; Allen Cronenberg, former director of the Alabama Center for the Book, and Lucinda Munger, former director of the South Carolina Center for the Book. In addition, Peggy Flynn, Angelisa Hawes and Liane Rosenblatt from the District of Columbia Public Library were part of the group.

Nancy E. Gwinn

At the top of the page, a pin commemorating 10 years of South African democracy is flanked by an architectural detail from the Johannesburg Public Library, whose staff met with their counterparts from the District of Columbia Public Library (above).



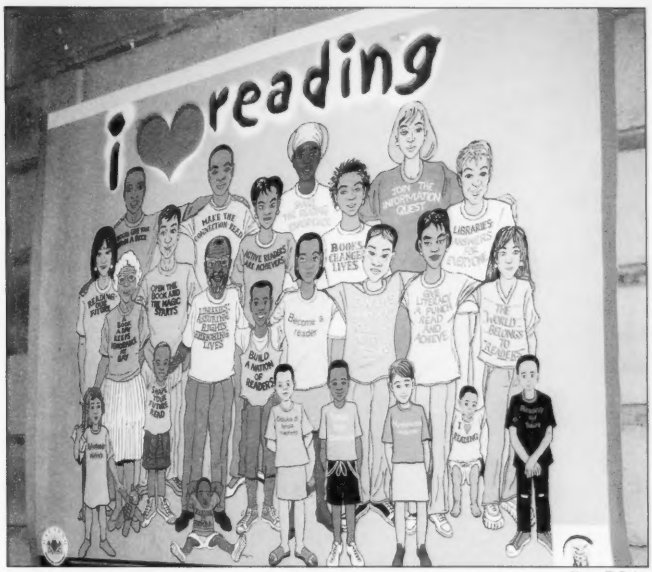
Nancy E. Gwinn

Catherine Gourley, director of the Center for the Book's Letters About Literature program, encounters giraffes at the Mthethomusha game reserve.

A highlight was the May 28 visit to the South African Centre for the Book in Cape Town, an organization whose creation was inspired by the activities of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.

Delegates also visited the National Library of South Africa (Cape Town and Pretoria campuses); the Manyano Secondary School in the township of Khayelitsha, near Cape Town; the 118-year-old Sea Point Primary School in Cape Town; and the University of the Western Cape in Bellville, where they heard a presentation by noted South African author and journalist Antjie Krog (best known for "Country of My Skull," a book about South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission). Other visits were to the Wes-Bank project, a program designed to support literacy and entrepreneurship in the township of WesBank, a low-income community near Cape Town. WesBank is supported by several staff members of the University of Western Cape School of Library Science; the South African Parliament, where the delegates watched part of a subcommittee meeting and met privately with an official from the Education Ministry; and the U.S. Embassy in Pretoria, where they learned about the embassy's support of educational and literacy initiatives within South Africa. At the Tetelo Secondary School in the township of Soweto, the group was greeted by the entire student body and treated to an early morning outdoor performance by the school choir. And at the meeting with South African public television, they learned about the organization's many educational and reading promotion initiatives, including "Takalani Sesame Street."

Delegates also participated with South African colleagues in symposia on two topics of mutual interest: reading and literacy promotion in South Africa, chaired in Cape Town by Gabrielle Ritchie, program executive, National Library of South Africa-Cape



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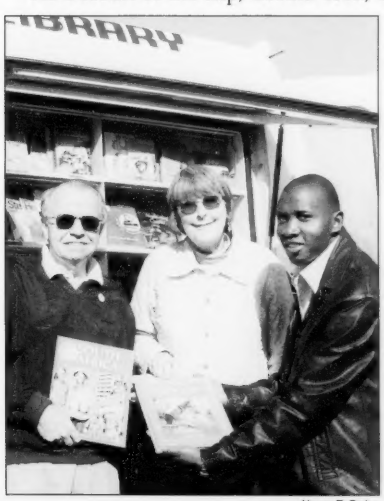
Above, a reading promotion poster in a community library near Johannesburg; below, John Cole and Anne Boni from the Center for the Book at a mobile library outside the Tetelo Secondary School in Soweto.

Town; and the "digital divide" in South Africa and the rest of the world, chaired in Pretoria by the national librarian of South Africa, John K. Tsebe.

In addition to the professional program, participants visited major tourist sites throughout South Africa and nearly all of them opted for a three-day visit to the Bongani game lodge, located within the Mthethomusha private reserve in northeastern South Africa adjacent to Kruger National Park.

The delegation was impressed with the spirit and optimism of the many South Africans they met, who are moving ahead in spite of many obstacles—both economic and social. The trip was especially productive and beneficial for the Center for the Book, helping it strengthen its international partnerships with the South African Centre for the Book and the International Reading Association.

As a result of the trip, Lorato Trok, the coordinator of the South African Centre for the Book's award-winning First Words in Print project, will visit both Colorado and Washington in February 2005. On Feb. 8, she will help launch "Reading Africa," a Black History Month project to encourage reading about Africa in the District of Columbia public schools at events at both the Martin Luther King Memorial Library (Washington's central public library) and the Library of Congress. The event will be cosponsored by the Center for the Book, the D.C. Center for the Book and the D.C. Public Library. ◆



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The South African Centre for the Book

In 1989, 12 years after the creation of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, the South African Library in Cape Town announced its plans to establish a South African Centre for the Book. That year Peter Coates, one of its senior staff members, visited the Library of Congress to learn more about the Center for the Book's activities. Plans were delayed as South Africa moved into a period of major change—in society, politics and government.

Piet Westra, director of the South African Library, met with this writer in 1994 to discuss changes in his initial concept of a South African Centre for the Book, including the need for private sector as well as government support. Westra reiterated his belief that national libraries had an obligation to reach out to the entire country to promote books and reading.

Until his retirement in 1997, Westra worked to keep the vision of a South African Centre for the Book alive and to persuade private sector partners to become involved with funding and in-kind support. He also continued to promote one of his initial notions: that the South African Centre for the Book be located in one of the finest Edwardian buildings in Cape Town, which was then being restored.

The South African Centre for the Book received its first funding in 1997 and began operation in 1998 under the leadership of Elisabeth Anderson, a former history teacher who was aware of the need to promote reading and writing in all of South Africa's languages and to provide every South African with free and easy access to books. In 1999 the South African Library (founded in 1818) and the State Library in Pretoria (founded in 1887) were merged to form the National Library of South Africa.

Today the South African Centre for the Book, a unit of the national library, has a full-time staff of eight plus several project consultants. Moreover, the centre is located in the restored Edwardian building championed by Westra and rents this impressive space for events, an important source of revenue. In 2004 the South African Centre for the Book's First Words in Print project, which provides picture and story books in all South African languages to young children and their families, won a major reading promotion award from the International Board of Books for Young People (IBBY). ◆

John Y. Cole is director of the Center for the Book.

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